

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MAY 6, 2018

CELEBRATING

& SERVING

THE LIVING LORD!

*The mission of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
is to reflect the loving presence of Christ
as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully and share life together
in a diverse and generous community.*

In preparation for worship please take the opportunity to speak silently to God.
At the close of the service let us greet one another with cheerfulness.
Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

May 6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *In Thee Is Joy*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Acts 10, Psalm 98, John 15

Leader: Sing joyful songs to God!

People: Alleluia! We are Easter people!

Leader: God has worked miracles!

People: Jesus is our joy!

Leader: Sing joyful songs to God!

People: Alleluia! We are Easter people!

Leader: God's love for us lasts forever.

People: Jesus makes us into friends.

Leader: Sing joyful songs to God!

People: Alleluia! We are Easter people!

*Hymn 464: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, you reach across every boundary, even death itself, and draw us into loving intimacy with you. Forgive us for resisting your love. You call us your friends, yet we act like minor acquaintances or even strangers. You send us into the world to proclaim your love, yet we gape in astonishment when you include all people in your love. The light of your resurrection conquers the darkness in our lives, yet we act as if your love is a burden. Give us Easter lives, we pray, for you alone have the power to save us.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

†*Congregational Response 579: *Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father

And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now,

And ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

†*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(As worshipers, we come from diverse experiences and points of view. We have different racial, educational, and economic backgrounds. Yet we are all one in Christ. We symbolize this as we exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation such as, “The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.”)

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed, Reader

The First Lesson: Psalm 98

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Leader: God’s Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

A Time For Children

Children in grades five and younger may now leave for their classes.

Gospel Choir Anthem: *What a Mighty God We Serve*

Kevin Pringle

We serve a mighty God. Angels bow down before him. Heaven and Earth shall adore him.

What a mighty God we serve. Praise him, praise him. We serve a mighty God.

The Second Lesson: John 15:9-17

Page 103 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: **The Story of your grace.**

Sermon: **AN EASTER PEOPLE**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 458: *Earth and All Stars*

DEXTER

*Affirmation of Faith (*Phil. 2:5-11*)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *Set Me As a Seal*

René Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. Text: Song of Solomon.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 40: *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Albert L. Travis

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

after worship today

for the purposes of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and voting on said report; receiving the reports from the staff, committees and organizations of First Church; and formally presenting the financial report for the Corporation for 2017.

Please plan to attend this meeting.

WELCOME: If you are visiting with us today, please sign the Fellowship Pad at the end of your pew. We pray the hour will be meaningful to you and you will come and worship with us again. Everyone is cordially invited to a time of fellowship in the Longstreth Auditorium following the worship service.

THE MUSIC: René Clausen, whose anthem is heard in the offertory today, is an internationally renowned choral conductor and composer with more than one hundred commissioned works to his credit. Clausen's stirring setting of a text from Song of Solomon was composed the night his wife lost a child during pregnancy resulting from a failed medical procedure. That tragic loss followed a history of three consecutive heartbreaking miscarriages. In the middle section of the anthem, "Many waters cannot quench love," Clausen's music washes over the listener as waves of healing sound. The anthem closes just as it began, reminding us that love is stronger than death, that God's love endures forever. Looking ahead: The Children's Choir will sing in worship next Sunday (May 13, Mother's Day); Voices in Bronze will play again on May 20; the Chancel Choir will sing through May 27; the Gospel Choir will sing again on June 3, then all choirs will take a break until September. If you are interested in offering your musical talents in worship during the summer months, please e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or call the church office at 215-843-8811.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: CDFC. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to the Rachel Women's Circle for supplying the munchies last week. If you love to bake, buy or share hospitality, we need you to host this important time of fellowship! Please speak to Delores Solomon if you feel called to provide the snacks or hands-on support for our community's gathering time after worship.

USHERS: The ministry of ushers on Sunday morning plays a vital role in welcoming people to First Church. If you are looking for a way to become more active in the life of First Church and/or want to meet new people, ushering may be exactly what you are looking for. It's a once-a-month commitment that requires you to be helpful and have the spirit of hospitality. If this is you, please speak to Mary Lundy to learn more about this ministry. You can speak to Mary today, telephone her at 215-927-4648 or call the church office.

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH" class will be held on **Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Finney Room for those interested in the possibility of joining in membership with FPCG, but is open to any who would like to attend. The class will focus on our ministry at First Pres including information from session members about opportunities for service here. Please let Ted Walkenhorst or Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in joining us.

A MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION WITH PASTOR REBECCA will begin in June, and will be held at 11:30 a.m. on the first Sunday and 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Our first discussion book is *Searching for Happiness* by Martin Thielen and is available during coffee hour for \$12. We will discuss the preface and chapter one in June. We hope to see you there!

SELECTING THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOUR STUDENT: On Monday, May 7, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at FPCG, The Notebook, a division of The Penn Project for Civic Engagement, will provide information on selecting the best Philadelphia public high school (district or charter) for your child. Over a free dinner, let's talk about what kind of information you want, including things like afterschool programs, arts, sports, class size, etc. Free child care is available upon request. To reserve child care, please contact Lauren Wiley at laurenw@thenotebook.org or 215-839-0082, ext. 106.

Conversations About Race

beginning

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE, a monthly event sponsored by the Presbytery of Philadelphia and the *Coming to the Table* organization (CTT), will begin at FPCG on Saturday, May 19. The group will meet on the third Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

CTT is a nation-wide organization dedicated to acknowledging and healing the wounds of racism by creating a safe space for participants to deepen their understanding of racism, strengthen community and take action. Discussions will be led by CTT-trained facilitators and are **free of charge**.

Coffee, registration and fellowship will begin at 9:30 and the program will start promptly at 10. **All are welcome!** For more information, contact Cheryl Pynch at cpyrch@summitpres.net or 215-438-2825.

NEW RESOURCE ROOM IS OPEN! Located across from Pastor Rebecca's office on the second floor, the room is filled with inspirational books, magazines and Bible Study materials. Resource Room hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and you are welcome to visit and/or check out materials. If you would like to visit on a weekend, please leave a request with one of the church office volunteers.

"SUNDAY SUPPERS" continues its program at First Church on Tuesday nights through the end of June. Families are served a full meal, which they've helped to prepare, at their own special table, receive a cooking lesson and are sent home with that night's recipe and the ingredients needed to prepare the meal at home on their own. Preparation for the evening begins at 3:00 p.m. and the families are here from 5:30 to 8 p.m. **Volunteers are very much needed for any portion of those times.** Please contact Jackie at 215-203-6364 or Jackie@sundaysuppersphilly.org.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who responded so promptly to our request for updated information. Our target date for production has been moved to June 1. New members will be joining us later this month and we want to be sure to include them in the new directory. If you are not ready to join but would like to be included as a friend of the church, please email your information to fpcg.germantown@gmail.com and send a selfie to Lois Bethea at 215-771-1469 or see Lois during coffee hour and she will take your picture and information. It is painless!

SAVE THE DATE: The Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Day at the Kimmel Center will include a performance by the Opera Philadelphia chorus, including our own Evelyn Santiago and Rob Phillips, accompanied by FPCG Music Director Tony Thurman on Saturday, June 23. The day-long celebration of the organ begins at 11 a.m. The organ and opera performance will be at 1:15 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

FIRST CHURCH PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

July 21-28, 2018

Nearly six months after Hurricane Maria devastated the beautiful *Isla del Encanto*, many in Puerto Rico remain without power as they work to rebuild their lives and communities. This July, Christian, Sheila, Emanuel and Elisa Heyer-Rivera; Andrea and Josh Overton; Jason, Rosemary, Sienna and Sol Williams; Sara and Jasmine Greene; Marc DiNardo; Annie Kotto and her daughter Danielle Ohemeng, and Leah and Emery Hood will work at the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** site located at the **Añasco Presbyterian Church** on the western coast of the island.

Several fundraising events are being held to support this trip: an ongoing **Mother's Day Plant Sale** (plants to be distributed May 12 and 13); a **Piña Colada Sale** on Saturday, June 10 and a **Puerto Rico Evening Out** on Saturday, June 30. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 (\$500 per person) to help offset the cost of our trip as well as supplies and food for the Añasco Presbyterian Church.

Our team is blessed with multiple gifts: three of our participants are medical professionals and will host a health clinic, several of our members will use their electrical and construction expertise to help rebuild, those of us who speak Spanish will act as translators and others will help to clean, paint and remove debris.

There is much work to be done!

Please see Christian Heyer-Rivera, Sheila Heyer-Rivera or Jason Williams for more information.

MUCHAS GRACIAS!

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, May 6

	IHN Departs
	Congregational Meeting Following Worship
9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
3:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Spring Concert
6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Spring Concert

Monday, May 7

1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium
6:00 PM	The Notebook: Selecting the Best High School for Your Student— Jennings Room
7:00 PM	“Exploring Our Faith” new members class—Finney Room

Tuesday, May 8

12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room
5:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Jennings Room

Wednesday, May 9

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
12:00 AM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room
4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
5:00 PM	Dani Howard Dinner—Finney Room
5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
6:30 PM	Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office

Thursday, May 10

8:00 AM	Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Avenue (8-10 a.m.)
6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Rehearsal and Open House— Longstreth Auditorium, Primary Room
6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room

Friday, May 11

3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gymnasium
5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—Youth Lounge

Saturday, May 12

	Germantown Second Saturday Festival , 5501 Germantown Avenue FPCG booth, noon to 5 p.m.
8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
10:00 AM	Open Gym

Sunday, May 13

9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
3:00 PM	Philadelphia Sinfonia Concert

Church Officers

Elders

2018

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Ted Walkenhorst

2019

Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon
Deborah Thompson

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

Clerk of Session:
Madeline Valentine

Deacons

2018

Don Carlin
Vera Harrison
Dani Howard

2019

Ruth Cato
Diane Filter
Dick Liberty

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

First Church Staff

	Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Adult Education and Community Life		Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry		Eileen Jones
Director of Music		F. Anthony Thurman
Director of the Gospel Choir		Sara Carter-Blanford
Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs		Evelyn Santiago
Director of Christian Education		Christian Heyer-Rivera
Parish Visitor		Heidi Mercado-Littles
Building Manager		Terry Boyer
Administrative Assistant		Joan Harris
Bookkeeper		Cindy Osborne
Sextons		Taneya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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